

[26th November 1955]

(1) APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF M.L.A.S. TO ENQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE P.C.C. SOCIETIES IN MALABAR.

SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the resolution standing in my name—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of the members of the Assembly be appointed to enquire into the conditions of the working of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies of Malabar and make a report to Government about their financial position, the loss, if any, suffered by the societies with reasons and the persons responsible for the same, the steps taken by the authorities from time to time to supervise the working of these societies and their future.”

SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN : I second the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved—

“This Assembly recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of the members of the Assembly be appointed to enquire into the conditions of the working of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies of Malabar and make a report to Government about their financial position, the loss, if any suffered by the societies with reasons and the persons responsible for the same, the steps taken by the authorities from time to time to supervise the working of these societies and their future.

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a.m. SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON : Sir, I gave notice of this Resolution about a year ago. Since then the Government have taken some steps to reorganise the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies of Malabar. These societies were started first in 1947 when there was food scarcity and when food control was in force. It worked well then and rendered great help to the people of that locality. The societies were also able to make a good profit. Moreover, it was only in Malabar that the scheme worked in every nook and corner. After the removal of food control, the societies were not given a correct lead. Hence, great loss was incurred by several societies. The Government were partly responsible for this, because the societies were under dual control. They were carrying on trade in food articles and to that extent, they were under the control of the Collector. The societies being under dual control, the Co-operative Department did not take care of the management of the societies. Hence, great loss was incurred by the societies. Now, the Government have appointed a special staff for reorganizing the societies. But still they have not settled the accounts with many societies. Hence, the societies are not able to do any work. But they have to be maintained and consequently, great losses are incurred. In those days these societies were the biggest organizations in Malabar. I would like that those societies should be maintained and run on proper lines in the best interests of the co-operative movement in Malabar. Therefore, I request that my Resolution may be accepted.

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* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Mr. Speaker, the Mover of the Resolution himself referred to some proposals of reorganization now going on in this respect. But I would submit that they do not at all touch even the fringe of the problem. There were about 107 Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar. They had a subscribed capital of about Rs. 42 lakhs. The Reserve Fund itself amounted to more than Rs. 26 lakhs. We know that they functioned under a peculiar circumstance, that is, in the days of control. We were sure that the controls were not to last for ever. Even while the food position was improving, we were requesting the Government to take proper and timely steps so that when decontrol came, the societies might not collapse. But the Government did not do the right thing at the right time with the result that when decontrol was proclaimed, the condition of many societies deteriorated and many of them went into liquidation. This could have been avoided if proper steps had been taken at the proper time. Then, to a question put on the floor of this House yesterday or day before yesterday, the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture (who is now in charge of Civil Supplies) said that there was no stock of foodgrains in Malabar with the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies. It may be so, but still these societies have not been taken over by the Co-operative Department. That was exactly the complaint of the societies also. Even to-day the Government have not taken very serious steps to settle the dues from the societies to the Government and the dues from the Government to the societies. In this connexion, I wish to mention one fact. The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture said that sums to the extent of Rs. 27 lakhs were due to the societies and that in these long years only a claim to the tune of about Rs. 4 lakhs had been settled. We can now imagine the delay caused and the difficulties of the societies. The societies are not responsible for the delay in the settlement of claims. It is the Government that is responsible for the loss. But they say that they are not responsible. That is a matter which has to be gone into very carefully.

Another important item of dispute between the Government and the societies was with respect to the interest payable by these societies. As I said, the societies owned large quantities of foodgrains, much beyond their requirements and the Government were charging interest on them. But they were not paying counter-interest. Sometimes foodgrains worth Rs. 2, 3 or 4 lakhs were transferred from the societies but they were credited to their account only six months, one year and two years thence. All these years they had to pay interest while they were not paid counter-interest since the stock of foodgrains were transferred from their godowns to other societies and even to societies outside the State.

Therefore, Sir, all these are very serious matters and every day 11-10
 the societies are making representations on account of the loss a.m.
 incurred in this respect as well as in many other respects. There
 were instances when huge losses were incurred on account of the

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orders of the Government themselves. At a certain point the Government would issue an order saying 'Do not sell such and such foodgrains until further orders of the Government.' After months they would issue an order saying that it should be sold. Meanwhile, the foodgrains might have deteriorated very considerably and there were Societies which incurred heavy losses on account of the delay caused by the Government in issuing final orders. That is another aspect that has to be gone into.

Then, above all, after all those claims are settled, there is the question of reorganization. There was a golden opportunity in the district of Malabar to take the spirit of co-operation into every nook and corner. But for the fact that the time was propitious and there was an insistent necessity, a net work of such widespread organization could not have been built up. Sir, even when the Societies were formed, the Registrar who was entrusted with the formation of Societies said 'Why ten lakhs? You will not be able to collect even ten thousand rupees.' But in one month, because of the circumstances and necessity, we were able to collect such a huge capital and form these one hundred Societies with ramifications all over Malabar. But, as I said, because of want of care and proper attention by the Government many of them have perished and some of them are still perishing only owing to this mentality of the Government.

Sir, the Committee that has been appointed is of course now considering as to what should be done with these Societies. Some say that they may be converted into rural banks. Others say that they may be converted into multi-purpose societies. But, even that could be done only under the orders of the Government after the settlement of accounts is completed. One of the foremost things now concerns the Societies, is the settlement of the dues between them and the Government. Therefore, it is necessary that a Committee, an impartial Committee, should enquire into that aspect. The claims of the Societies should not be summarily rejected by the superior officers, the Collector or the Board of Revenue. The whole situation will have to be gone into and, I submit, it is but fit that Members of the Legislative Assembly are appointed to go into the various aspects, of course, to make recommendations not only in this respect but also in regard to the transformation or reorganization of these Societies. Therefore, Sir, with great pleasure, I support the Resolution.

SRI C. H. KANARAN : മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പീക്കർ, സർ, മലബാറിലെ പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ എല്ലാ രാഷ്ട്രീയകക്ഷികളും ജനങ്ങളും ചേർന്ന് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള മഹത്തായ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളാണ്. അവയുടെ ഭാവി ഏതു രംഗത്തിലായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗാഢമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. പല സൊസൈറ്റികളേയും മറ്റും ബാങ്കുകളായി മാറ്റാനുള്ള ആലോചനയുണ്ട്. മറ്റു പലതിനേയും വിവിധോദ്ദേശ സംഘങ്ങളാക്കാനുള്ള നടപടികളും നടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ പൊതുവേ ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഗൗരവത്തോടെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധചെലുത്തുന്നതോ എന്ന് സംശയമാണ്. പല പല നിബന്ധനകളും ഏല്പിട്ടുത്തി, ഈ പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ മൂൻ ബാങ്കുകളാക്കി മാറ്റിയും മറ്റും ജനോപകാരപ്രദമായ സ്ഥാപ

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നങ്ങളായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് സഹായകമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു നിലപാടാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിച്ചു കാണുന്നത്. നല്ല നിലയിൽ നടത്തിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഗുണം ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയുന്ന ഈ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളെ ഇന്നത്തെ ന്യൂനതയോടനുസരിച്ച് എങ്ങിനെയൊണ് രക്ഷിക്കുക, ഏതു തരത്തിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിപ്പാലാണ് ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളിൽനിന്ന് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനം ഉണ്ടാകാൻ സാധിക്കുക എന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചെല്ലാം സൂക്ഷ്മമായി അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലത്ത് ചില സൊസൈറ്റികളിൽ ചില ഭരണഘടനകളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട് : പല തെറ്റുകളും പറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. കുറെ പണമെല്ലാം ഭരണച്ചുമതല വഹിച്ചിരുന്നവർ തട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോയിട്ടുണ്ട്. മറ്റു വിധത്തിലും ചില സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്ക് നഷ്ടം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയെല്ലാം സംഭവിക്കാൻ കാരണമെന്ത്? നഷ്ടം വന്നത് എങ്ങനെ നികത്താൻ, തട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയ ആളുകളിൽനിന്നു ആ പണം എങ്ങനെ തിരിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ എന്നെല്ലാം ഒന്ന് അന്വേഷിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. വളരെ ഗൗരവത്തോടുകൂടി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു പ്രധാന കാര്യമാണ് ഇതു്. അന്വേഷ്യയ്ക്ക് ഒരു അന്വേഷണാധികാരിയെ നിയമിക്കുന്നത് വളരെ ഉത്തമമായിരിക്കും. അതിനുവേണ്ടി കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിന്തുടരുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇതു് സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

* SRI O. KORAN : മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പീക്കർ, സർ, മലബാറിലെ പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് കൃത്യമായി അന്വേഷിച്ച് തീരുമാനമെടുക്കാൻവേണ്ടി ഒരു അന്വേഷണാധികാരിയെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്ന ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ഈ പ്രമേയം വളരെ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള ഒന്നാണ്. ചില പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ ഭരണച്ചുമതല വഹിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ അശുചിമതികളും തട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ അലസമായ നയം നിമിത്തവും സാഹകരണപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വിശ്വാസത്തിനേതന്നെ വലിയ ഇളക്കംതട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിന്റെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്തന്നെയാണെന്ന് പറയാതെതരമില്ല. സാഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ശരിയായ പുരോഗതിക്കും അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കും ഉതകുന്ന മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിടുകി പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ നയിക്കാതെ ആരംഭകാലം മുതൽക്കുതന്നെ പലപ്രകാരത്തിൽ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികളും പദ്ധതികളുമാണ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ ചുമതല വഹിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. സൊസൈറ്റികളെ കത്തക മുതലാളിമാരും ജന്മിമാരുംകൂടി കൈയടക്കി ബഹുജനോപയോഗപ്രദമായ പ്രസ്ഥാനമല്ലാതാക്കിത്തീർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിശേഷിച്ചും പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ ഭരണസമിതി കണ്ടെല്ലാം കത്തകമുതലാളിമാർക്കൊക്കെ നീനിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. സ്വന്തം കച്ചവടരാജ്യങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാനും സൊസൈറ്റിമൂലം വരുമാനമുണ്ടാക്കി സ്വന്തം കീഴയിലാക്കാനും കിണങ്ങു പരിശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഭരതുകൂടും ആളുകളുടെ കൈയിൽ വെട്ടിതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ബഹുജനക്ഷേമത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുണ്ടാക്കിയ പലസൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കും നാട്ടുകാരുടെ നന്ദിക്കും കേരളത്തിനുമേലേക്കി ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ അല്ലാതെ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നതും നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതും ശരിയല്ല. വളരെ നല്ല നിലയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനും മഹത്തായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നേടാനും കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ചില സൊസൈറ്റികളുണ്ടെന്ന് ഞാൻ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ചേറുവാ പാലം പണിയുന്നതിന് ഏഴു ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക കൊടുക്കാൻ അവിടത്തെ പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കു സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മറ്റു പല സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കും ഇതുപോലെ പല നല്ല കാര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ മഹത്തായ കഴിവുകളുള്ള ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ ജനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള വിശ്വാസം ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകുന്ന പരിതഃസ്ഥിതി മലബാറിലെ പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഉദ്വയായിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനുള്ള ഉത്തരം ദാരിദ്ര്യം പൂർണ്ണമായും ഗവണ്മെന്റിനേതന്നെയാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ പറയും. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ നടത്തിപ്പിനെക്കുറിച്ചന്വേഷിക്കാൻ ചുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അവരുടെ ചുമതല നിർവഹിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കഴുപ്പങ്ങളും വീഴ്ചകളും ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ അദ്യോഗപ്രായം അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുക, അവ ആവർത്തിക്കാതിരിക്കാനുള്ള നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുക എന്നൊരേപ്പാടില്ല. അതിക്കച്ചവടത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ വിഴ്ചകൊണ്ടും സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കു വലിയ നഷ്ടം

[Sri O. Koran]

[26th November 1955]

സഹിഷ്ണുവെന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങാടിപ്പുറം സൊസൈറ്റിതന്നെ അതിനു നല്ലൊരു മാതൃകയാണ്. കോയമ്പത്തൂരിലും മധുരയിലും മറ്റും സ്റ്റോക്കുചെയ്തിരുന്ന അരി മാറ്റം ചെയ്യുപ്പോൾ കേടുള്ള അരി മുഴുവൻ ആ സൊസൈറ്റിയുടെ തലയ്ക്ക് കെട്ടിവെച്ചതിന്റെ ഫലമായി സൊസൈറ്റിക്കു വലിയ നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ മറ്റു പല സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കും നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പണം വളരെക്കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൊസൈറ്റികളിലുള്ള വിശ്വാസം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ ശരിയായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചാൽ വമ്പിച്ച കച്ചവടങ്ങളുള്ള ഒരു പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കിടയിൽ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണയുണ്ടായിപ്പോകാം. വളരുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികളാണ് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ആരംഭിക്കാൻ മുൻപോട്ടു സാധിക്കുകയെന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളിൽ പലതിനേയും ഐക്യനാണയ സംഘങ്ങളായി മാറ്റാനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ നയത്തിന്റെയും നടപടികളുടെയും ഫലമായി അതിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിശ്വാസമില്ലാതെ വന്നിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ അപകടത്തിൽനിന്നും പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു് അടിയന്തിരമായ കരാവശ്യമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെയെല്ലാം സമ്പത്തികമായ നിലയെന്തു്, അവയ്ക്കുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടങ്ങളെന്തു്, ആ നഷ്ടത്തിന് ഉത്തരവാദികളായ്, നഷ്ടം എങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തതായി, ഈ തെറ്റുകളും നഷ്ടങ്ങളും ആവർത്തിക്കാനിരിക്കാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെന്തെല്ലാം, സൊസൈറ്റികളെ എങ്ങനെ പുനഃസംഘടിപ്പിച്ചാലാണ് ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടാകാൻ കഴിയുക എന്നിങ്ങനെയെല്ലാമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി രൂപരേഖയായ ഒരു അനവേഷണം നടത്തി രീതിമാനപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലേയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു അനൗദ്യോഗിക കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നും ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തതും സർവ്വമാം സ്വീകാര്യമാണ്. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇതു് സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്ന് വിശ്വാസിക്കുന്നു.

11-20 a.m. SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the "Resolution to appoint a Committee to go into the working of the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Societies in Malabar, I want to make certain observations regarding its future reorganisation which is very important.

Sir, the Government are considering the question of reorganising the societies into Credit Societies or Rural Banks and also how best the funds accumulated by these societies can be used for the benefit of the people. In that connection, I want to make a few suggestions.

Firstly, while making the societies into Rural Credit Banks, the Government prescribe a rule that the Directors of the Bank should take a share of Rs. 250 or more. The present rule regarding the election of a Director of a 'producers'-cum-consumers' society is that any ordinary member can be elected as Director. Sir, the producers'-cum-consumers' societies have been doing business in lakhs of rupees and several of the societies have done it creditably. Of course, a few societies have not functioned well. When the Government could entrust a business worth lakhs of rupees to the producers'-cum-consumers' societies where an ordinary shareholder can be elected as a Director, why should they now change that rule and prescribe that only a member who takes a share of more than Rs. 250 can be made Director of Rural Banks? Sir, this new prescription by the Government is generally objected to by the people and there is much objection by several producers'-cum-consumers' societies. For example, the

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Nattika Firka producers'-cum-consumers' society at its General Body meeting has objected to this prescription and I can tell this House that this producers'-cum-consumers' society has been running very well without any loss and it has accumulated lakhs of rupees in its Reserve Fund. Sir, the Reserve Funds accumulated by these societies can be used for several beneficial purposes. The Government can prescribe a rule that Reserve Funds accumulated by the societies may be used for development works or for educational purposes. For instance, the Nattika producers'-cum-consumers' society at its General Body meeting passed a resolution that an amount of Rs. 30,000 from its Reserve Fund can be utilised for the construction of a College building at Tirprayar. The proposal to construct a College at Tirprayar has been there for the last several years but it could not be started for want of enough funds. That proposal which was sent two or three years ago was not accepted by the Government. But I am glad to tell the House that last month the Government have accepted the proposal of the General Body of the producers'-cum-consumers' society and have passed orders for the utilisation of the Reserve Fund for the construction of the College. Several of the societies have accumulated huge reserve funds, six or seven times the share capital. Sir, by putting a limit on the accumulation of the reserve fund, the surplus funds can very well be utilised for the beneficial purposes mentioned by me just now. All these things can also be gone into by the Committee that may be appointed to go into the working of these societies. With these words, I support the Resolution that is now before the House.

* SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പീക്കർ, സർ, മലബാറിലെ പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ റിസർവ്വ് ഫണ്ടായും മറ്റും ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്ക് ധാരാളം പണം സമാധിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിപ്ലവ നികുതിയിനത്തിൽതന്നെ വമ്പിച്ച ഒരു തുക ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. പല നല്ല പൊതുകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയും പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ വളരെ പണം സംഭാവന ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയൊക്കെയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പൊതുവെ സഹകരണപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തോടുകൂടുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ അത്രപ്പി ഉണ്ടാകത്തക്കവിധത്തിലായിരുന്ന ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ നാടത്തിപ്പ്. അതിനു പ്രധാന ഉത്തരവാദി ഗവണ്മെന്റാണ്. ഗവണ്മെന്റിനീക്കം കൊടുത്ത ധാന്യങ്ങൾക്കു കൃത്യമായി വിലകൊടുക്കണം, കൊടുക്കാൻ രാമസിദ്ധാൽ പലിശ കൊടുക്കണം എന്നീ കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം വലിയ കണിശമായിരുന്നു. അതെസമയം ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ട പണത്തിന് പലിശയില്ല. ധാന്യങ്ങൾ തിരിച്ചെടുക്കണമെന്നാശ്വസ്ഥ്യം അതിനും എത്രയോ കാലതാമസം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ സൊസൈറ്റികൾക്കു വളരെ നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചു. കൂടാതെ ചില സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ ഭരണച്ചുമതല വഹിച്ചിരുന്ന ആളുകൾ ധാരാളമായി കുട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തോളം ഉറപ്പിക കണ്ടെത്തിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളുണ്ട്. കളവു നടത്തിയാൽ സമയത്ത് അനേകപ്പണം നടത്തി കേന്ദ്രത്തുകയോ നഷ്ടം ഈടാക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുക എന്നൊരേപ്പാട് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഒരുവേള കേന്ദ്ര ചാർജ്ജ് ചെയ്യാൻ എന്നെയും കട്ടവർ അവസാനം എങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും രക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് കണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. ഇതിന്റെയെല്ലാം ഫലമായി സഹകരണപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ നാട്ടുകാർക്ക് അവിശ്വാസവും അത്രപ്പിയുമാണ് ഉളവായിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാകാനാദ്യേരിക്കുന്ന ക്രെഡിറ്റ് സൊസൈറ്റികളിലും ആളുകൾക്കു സാധാധികമായി വലിയ വിശ്വാസമൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നു വരാം. ഇതിന് പരിഹാരം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച് സഹകരണപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിശ്വാസം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനും പി. സി. സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ ഭാവിയിൽ

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കൂടുതൽ നല്ല നിലവിലും പ്രയോജനപ്രദമായും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് എന്തെല്ലാമാണ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്ന് അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനും ഒരു അനുബന്ധാധിക കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അംഗീകരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

* **SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :** മിസ്റ്റർ സ്പീക്കർ, സർ, മലബാറിലെ സഹകരണപ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ഭാവിയിലെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുകേൾക്കേണ്ടതും അതിപ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പ്രമേയമാണിത്. മലബാറിലുടനീളമുള്ള മിക്കവാറും കടബാധ്യത കൊണ്ട് കടം വിട്ടാനുള്ള മാഗ്നൈറ്റിലൂടെ വിചിത്രമായൊരു സാഹചര്യം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. കടബാധ്യതയിൽനിന്നു വിമുക്തിനേടാൻ കൂടിക്കാഴ്ച എടുത്തതിൽ ന്യായമായ പലിശയ്ക്കു കടം കിട്ടാനുള്ള സൗകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്തമുള്ള ഒരു ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കർത്തവ്യമാണ്. മലബാറിലെ പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളെ റൂൾ ബാങ്കുകളായി മാറ്റി അവിടത്തെ കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയിൽ നിലനില്പിനും കേന്ദ്രത്തിനും ഉപയുക്തമായ നിലയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. പല പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികളുടേയും ജനറൽ ബോഡി കൂടി റൂൾ ബാങ്കുകളായി മാറ്റാൻ അനുവാദത്തിന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അത്ര സഹായകരമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു നയമാണ് സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ചില സൊസൈറ്റികളിൽനിന്നും ആറുമാസത്തിനുള്ളിലെ പാസ്സാക്കി അയച്ച പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ ഇന്നും തീരുമാനമെടുക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഫയലുകളിൽ കിടക്കുകയാണ്. പി.സി.സി. സൊസൈറ്റികൾ അങ്ങനെ ഇന്നു ഒരു നൂറുകണക്കായി കിടക്കുകയാണ്. അതേ സമയം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു ശമ്പളം കൊടുത്തും മറ്റുമായി സൊസൈറ്റികളുടെ പണമെല്ലാം നശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ നിലയ്ക്കു കടന്നു ചേർന്ന മലബാറിലെ കൂടിക്കാഴ്ച അത്യാവശ്യമായ ധനസഹായം നൽകുന്നതിനായി ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളെയെല്ലാം റൂൾ ബാങ്കുകളായി മാറ്റുന്നതിന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അഭിപ്രായത്തിലായ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അക്കാമ്പിത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ സൗപര്യമുപ പതിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. അതോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ ഈ സൊസൈറ്റികളെ ഭാവിയിൽ എങ്ങനെ പുനഃസംഘടിപ്പിച്ചാലാണ് കൂടുതൽ ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളാക്കിത്തീർക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുക എന്നു അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിന്നു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതും ഏറ്റവും അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കാര്യമാണെന്നു എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്തുടരുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഇതു് സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്നു അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

10-30
a.m.

* **THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry my Colleague in charge of this subject is not present here to-day and I am sure he would have been able to do better justice in dealing with the subject-matter. But still with reference to certain points raised I may be in a better position to answer those points. With deference to the future set-up of the producers'-cum-consumers' societies, I am sure my Colleague in charge of that subject is taking all necessary measures for the purpose of reorganising those societies. If the Government are not in a position to agree to this resolution it is not because that they are not in agreement with many of the points raised by hon. Members. But in my view this resolution was misconceived and it will not be possible to achieve the objects which the hon. Members have in mind by passing this resolution. These societies, if I may say so, were 'control babies'. They thrived on food controls and they were able to function and build large resources, as mentioned by hon. Members, because of the existence of food controls and the monopoly given to those societies to deal in foodgrains. But for that it would not have been possible for these societies to function successfully. But now after the lifting of controls, they are in a very bad position. With regard to the working of these societies

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during control days hon. Members made various complaints against the terms and conditions under which these societies dealing in foodgrains had to work. But in spite of those stringent conditions they were able to make large profits and build up large resources. That only goes to show that the conditions under which they were working during the control days were not onerous and that these societies were making huge profits during the control days. If there has been mismanagement and due to that some loss it is not because the conditions were stringent. It is not because of the conditions imposed on them that they incurred losses. The terms and conditions under which these producers'-cum-consumers' societies operated were quite favourable and they made huge profits.

A complaint has been made that the accounts have not yet been settled and a large number of societies are yet to receive money from the Government for the various past transactions and that it has been long pending without settlement. I may assure hon. Members that now the controls have been given up and State Trading in foodgrains has been wound up, every effort is being made to settle these accounts. As a matter of fact, daily some file is coming up for the purpose of settling these accounts with reference to these societies. Ere long we hope that it should be possible to close these accounts with reference to State Trading in foodgrains, and that means the settlement of accounts of these producers'-cum-consumers' societies also. As far as that is concerned nothing will be served by the appointment of a Non-official Committee consisting of Members of this Honourable House as this matter has to be dealt with by the Accounts Officers. We are trying our best to dispose of the various pending matters as expeditiously as possible. We have fixed a time target for the purpose of completing looking into these transactions and taking final decisions on those things. If I remember right 31st March of next year is the target date and we hope it would be possible to settle the accounts by that date because these are the only matters pending, and there are no other matters pending with the Department. Mr. Kurup mentioned the various dealings of these societies with the Government in respect of foodgrains and with reference to that I would like to tell him that no purpose will be served by the appointment of such a committee.

With reference to the future of these producers'-cum-consumers' societies I do agree that these organisations should be reorganised and utilised to the best advantage possible for the benefit of the people of Malabar and that is the aim of Government also. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is making various attempts for the reorganisation of these societies. In that connection, we have got to see whether any Committee is necessary and if any Committee is appointed whether they could do any work under the existing laws. Hon. Members may be

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aware that these are all bodies registered under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act and, therefore, if any enquiry has got to be made into the affairs of these societies it will have to be made under the provisions of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act and not under any other provision. The only provision in the Co-operative Societies Act is Section 38 under which an enquiry can be made into the affairs of these societies and that could be done only by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and not by any non-official body. Therefore, if we appoint a Non-official Committee here without changing the law we have to consider whether that body will have the power to enquire into the affairs of any society and to ask the office-bearers of these societies to produce the accounts of the societies and give other necessary particulars for the purpose of this enquiry. Unfortunately, we cannot compel them and that being so what purpose will be served by the appointment of a Committee which will have no powers under existing law to go into the affairs of these societies? The hon. Members will have to take into consideration this point in considering the resolution.

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : That is not the sole or main purpose of the resolution though it may also come incidentally. The purpose of this resolution is to go into the accounts and dealings of the societies on the one side, and the policy of the Government which gave directions during the days of control to these societies on the other hand and the relations between the two. That is the main purpose of the resolution and not to go into the internal working of these societies.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : Only when a particular society does not work properly, action under Section 38 of the Co-operative Societies Act comes in. But here all the societies in Malabar District have failed and we have to find out what are the main reasons for their failure. Here Section 38 does not come in the picture.

11-40
a.m.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, evidently, the hon. Member has not looked into the wording of the Resolution which says : "This Assembly recommends to the Government that a Committee consisting of the members of the Assembly be appointed to enquire into the conditions of the working of the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies of Malabar and make a report to Government about their financial position". The question is whether any non-official body has got the power to enquire into the working of these societies. We will have to go into the various transactions and the accounts. Can we compel any society that they should produce the accounts? This is after all a statutory body and statutory bodies are governed by the existing provisions of law and the rules framed for their working. We cannot appoint any other body to go into the working and therefore no effective purpose will be served by the appointment of a

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non-official body at this stage. That is my first point. Under law it will be an infructuous body and I do not think this Assembly should take the responsibility of appointing such a body without amending the Act, giving powers to the non-official body to go into the affairs of these societies.

So far as past transactions are concerned, I have already informed the House that the Government are looking into the matter and passing orders in cases where the societies are entitled to recoup any money from the Government. Even for the purpose of finding out that, I do not think that a non-official body will be in a better position than a Government officer. A Special officer has been appointed for this purpose and he is scrutinizing the accounts and taking orders of Government in respect of each society. Under these circumstances, I do not think that a non-official body will be the proper authority for the purpose of scrutinizing the accounts of these societies.

Then we should also take into account the autonomy of the societies. The persons primarily interested in the societies are the Members concerned and, if they feel that any particular society is not being properly managed and should be wound up, there is provision in the Co-operative Societies Act for making an application for that purpose by the Members concerned. Therefore, it is not necessary to interfere with the affairs of an autonomous body working under the provisions of a certain Act. From that point of view also, it should be left to the department concerned and not to a non-official body. Further, the Government have also no power except under the provisions of Section 38 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act to order an enquiry into the matter. Therefore, merely passing a resolution of this kind will not confer any power. After all, hon. Members must know that by passing a resolution we are only recommending to the Government to take a particular action, namely to order an enquiry into the working of the various societies. We must also look into the powers of the Assembly and consider whether we have got power to order an enquiry. That is why I say that this resolution is only recommendatory and we are not giving any extra authority to the Government. So the question whether such a recommendation can be implemented by the Government will have to be considered by the hon. Members. The powers of the Government with reference to these societies are defined in the Act and we cannot go beyond them.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM: Sir, the multi-purpose societies exist not only in Malabar but in other parts of the State also. But the complaints about the working of these societies in the other parts of the State are not so great. So far as Malabar is concerned, there is the general complaint that these societies are not working properly. Therefore the question is what are the special reasons and factors that are not conducive to the proper working of these Societies in Malabar. That is a relevant

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question and a Committee will have to be appointed to go into that. Section 38 is invoked only when particular societies go wrong and when the accounts of particular societies are not maintained properly. So such a Committee may be necessary to find out the general defects so far as Malabar district is concerned.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am afraid the hon. Member has proceeded on a wrong basis altogether, that every Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Society is not working properly. There are many societies which are still working properly. There are only a few individual cases where they have mismanaged completely and have incurred losses. Therefore, it will be unnecessary to go into the affairs of each society and find out what has been the reason for the loss and mismanagement in each case. It is not a question of general enquiry being made without going into the affairs of each society. That will be the main difficulty. The Government cannot get any extra authority merely because of this resolution to pass any order beyond the provisions of the existing Act governing the working of these societies. Therefore, we will be passing an infructuous resolution in respect of a matter in regard to which even the Government have no power to pass an order for making an enquiry.

At the same time, we are aware of the seriousness of the situation and are earnest that the defects found in the working of these societies should be rectified and that the societies should be re-organised and utilised for the benefit of the people.

SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON: Sir, cannot the Government appoint at least an Advisory Committee to advise them in the matter of the reorganisation of these societies? There are certain difficulties as pointed out by Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan and I have also experienced some. When societies are reorganised, conditions are imposed under which it is impossible to run them. That is the position in Malabar. Under such conditions, it would be better to appoint an Advisory Committee. There can be no legal difficulty and I think it could be done. That will also be helpful for the reorganization work now carried on in Malabar.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The suggestion made by the hon. Member just now is quite different and I am unable to give an immediate answer because I am not in charge of that subject. Certainly I shall pass on that suggestion to my colleague who is in charge of that portfolio. But here we are not concerned with that. If it is necessary and advisable that a Committee should be constituted for the purpose of assisting the Special Officers who are going into the question, certainly this matter could be considered by the department or by the Minister concerned. But now we are considering this Resolution. I am sure that the hon. Member himself feels convinced now that there will be no use in passing such a Resolution. That is why he has made an alternative suggestion. Still I want to inform the House

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the steps which are now being taken for the reorganization of these societies because that is the most important thing. Apart from the question of appointing an Advisory Committee, the question now is how to salvage these societies and put them on a better and more secure basis so that they may function as 'Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies or other forms of societies. That is why I would like to inform the House in general the steps which are being taken by the Government in this respect.

A conference of the representatives of the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Societies was convened at Kozhikode on 22nd February 1955 at the instance of the Government and conference has passed several resolutions regarding the future of these societies. All those resolutions have been examined and Government have passed orders on most of them. They have accepted many of the resolutions and are implementing them. There are a few more resolutions which are still under examination and the Government hope to take final decisions on those resolutions also very soon. Since the Collector felt that it would not be possible for him to act effectively in the reorganised set-up of these societies, whatever might have been his position when these societies were dealing only in controlled grains, the Government have issued an Order that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should take over the management of these societies under the Act. Therefore, all the 107 societies are now under the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies whereas formerly they were under the control of the Collector of Malabar.

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: One of the Resolutions which was being repeatedly passed was that the Government, though they may take their own time for settling the accounts, should immediately assume the management of these societies and should not wait till the last pie has been paid or received by them so that these societies need not maintain unnecessary staff and incur loss. I do not know whether that has been examined.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That has also been considered and much progress has been made. I shall give some figures. I hope the hon. Member will be satisfied. The position as on 15th November 1955 is as follows:

1. Number of societies re-registered as other types of societies	25
2. Number of societies liquidated	18
3. Number of societies in respect of which proposals for converting them as Rural Banks have been received by the Registrar and are pending with him. (That is the main proposal under consideration).	51

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4. Number of societies in respect of which liquidation proposals have been received by the Registrar and are pending with him	...	...	...	...	...	3
5. Number of societies in respect of which the possibility of re-registration or winding up is under examination	...	...	...	...	...	10
						107

Therefore, the Department is fully aware of the importance of the subject and is taking all possible steps to re-organise these Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies. Under these circumstances, I would respectfully submit that there is no necessity for any enquiry committee. It is all easy to suggest, but the point is whether we have power to appoint an enquiry committee. After all, when we appoint committees, we will be only postponing decisions pending the result of the enquiry to be made by the committee. Now that we are taking final decisions in respect of these societies, it will only be hindering the taking of further decisions in these matters.

11-50 a.m. I have made the position of the Government clear. It is not as if we are not interested in reorganizing and putting these societies on a sound basis. We also are very much interested in the proper working of these societies and steps are being taken in that direction. Therefore I appeal to the Mover to withdraw the motion.

SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the motion. At the same time I would request the Hon. Minister to appoint an advisory committee to advise the Government in the matter of reorganization of the Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies of Malabar. I take what he has said about the advisory committee as an assurance for appointing a committee.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sorry the hon. Member has taken it as an assurance. I cannot commit my Hon. Colleague, but I will pass on the suggestion to him.

SRI V. SANKARANARAYANA MENON: In the light of this assurance, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Member Sri S. Ramalingam is absent, the resolution standing in his name is deemed to have been withdrawn.